

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /109 W
----- 063876

O R 301212Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5989

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. LL652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, UK

SUBJECT: GRAINS RESERVE -- IWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

L. SUMMARY. DEBATE DURING OCTOBER 28 MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL (IWC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CLEARLY DELINEATED EC AND US POSITIONS ON US PROPOSAL

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FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRAINS RESERVES SYSTEM.

AS ANTICIPATED, EC REJECTED SCHEDULING OF AN ADDITIONAL
ETING OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP FOR PURPOSE OF CONTIN-
UING DISCUSSION OF THE RESERVES PROPOSAL PRIOR
TO NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER. THIS WAS COUNTERED
BY USDEL USINE ARGUMENTS IN REFTEL. AUSTRALIA MILDLY
SUPPORTED EC POSITION FOR DELAY, WHILE CANADA SIDED
WITH OUR VIEW THAT EARLY SCHEDULING OF PREP GROUP
NEEDED. IN ANY CASE, PREP GROUP CHAIRMAN WILL CONTINUE
CONSULTATIONS IN EFFORT TO SET PREP GROUP DATE.
COUNCIL MEETILG SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER L,
WITH WEEK'S SCHEDULE DELIBERATELY LEFT FLEXIBLE FOR
POSSIBLE DECEMBER 2 MEETING OF GROUP IF CAN BE WORKED
OUT. SECRETARIAT PROMISED TECHNICAL PAPERS REQUESTED
DURING SEPTEMBER GROUP MEETING FOR CIRCULATION NEXT
WEEK. WHETHER OR NOT EC CAN BE MADE TO BACK DOWN, THIS
SESSION WAS USEFUL IN SETTING STAGE FOR THE EFFORT.
OTHER ITEMS OL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSED
SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DEATE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE IWC COUNCIL (FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER), THE IWC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 28 DISCUSSED US HOPES
TO SCHEDULE ALOTHER MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP
PRIOR TO THE AOUNCIL MEETING FOR FURTHER WORK ON THE US
GRAINS RESERVES PROPOSAL. ACTUAL SETTING OF THE NEXT
DATE OF PREP AOMM IS THE PREROGATIVEOF THE GROUP'S
CHAIRMAN (IWC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PAROTTE) -- WHO WAS
INSTRUCTED BY THE LAST MEETING TO CONSULT GROUP MEMBERS
RE NEXT MEETING -- AND NOT THAT OF THE EXECUTIVE COM-
MITTEE. NEVERTHELESS, AS PAROTTE POINTED OUT, THE
MOST IMPORTANT ITEM ON THE COUNCIL'S AGENDA WILL BE THAT
DEALING WITH THE REPORT OF THE PREP GROUP AND THE
DETERMINATION BY THE COUNCIL OF FUTURE ACTION ON A NEW
AGREEMENT, SO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DEBATE WAS MOST
APPROPRIATE.

3. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, USDEL WAS AWARE EC HAD BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO STATE OPPOSITION TO HOLDING ANOTHER MEET-
ING OF THE PREP GROUP. WE WERE ABLE, THEREFORE, TO DO
SOME ADVANCE WORK IN CLEARING PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED
DURING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH PAROTTE AND
CHAIRMAN SEWARD (ARGENTINA), AS WELL AS DISCUSS US
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INTENTIONS IN SOME DETAIL WITH AUSTRALIA AND CANADA
AND TO ALERT (BUT NOT IN DETAIL) THE SOVIET AND
EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS.

4. MEETING DEVELOPED ALMOST EXACTLY AS FORESEEN IN
REFTEL. AFTER INTRODUCTION OF ITEM BY CHAIRMAN AND
PAROTTE, USDEL MOVED IN QUICKLY TO REITERATE OUR
POSITION TAKEL LAST SEPTEMBER FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF
GROUP, USING POINTS IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL ALMOST

VERBATIM. EC DEL (EATON), AS ANTICIPATED, INTERVENED,
KEYING STATEMENT TO US EMPHASIS ON URGENCY AND IMPOR-
TANCE OF FOOD SECURITY, NOTING, INTER ALIA, HE
"...WANTED TO MAKE POSITION CLEAR THAT EC RECOGNIZED
IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SECURITY AS MUCH AS ANYONE IN
ROOM." EATON SAID PROPER WAY TO DO THIS WAS TO
NEGOTIATE, NOT JUST HOLD PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND
THAT ALL "ELEMENTS AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS" MUST BE
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE THEN SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO
SAY EC COULD NOT APPROVE ANOTHER GROUP MEETING BEFORE
DECEMBER AND THAT REPORT OF GROUP SHOULD BE ORAL REPORT

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BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ONLY ON WORK TO DATE.

5. USDEL DROPPED OTHER SHOE WITH SECOND INTERVENTION JUST AFTER EC. THIS WAS BASED ON PARA 3 OF REFTTEL, I.E., THAT US REGARDS ANY TACTIC DELAYING BEGINNING OF ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY AS CONTRARY POSITIONS TAKEN AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. EC AGAIN INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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VENED TO TAKE EXCEPTION TO USE OF WORD "TACTIC", POINTING OUT EC INTEREQT WAS TO FIND BEST WAY TO ARRIVE AT QUICKEST RESULT.

6. AUSTRALIAN DEL (JENKINS), WHO WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO TRY TO PUSH US TOWARD MODIFYING ITS PROPOSAL, UNDERTOOK A LENGTHY INTERVENTION EFFECTIVELY, SIDING WITH EC DELAYING TACTIC. HE WELCOMED US VIEW THAT RESERVES PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION, BUT QUESTIONS WISDOM OF SCHEDULING ANOTHER GROUP MEETING BEFORE COUNCIL SESSION. HE REFERRED TO OPINIONS EXPRESSED DURING LAST GROUP MEETING THAT US PAPER NEEDED SOME RE-WORKING -- PARTICULARLY REGARDING PRICE. HE STRESSED NEED FOR SOME COMPROMISE (BY US), BUT RECOGNIZED THAT MUCH WORK REMAINED TO BE DONE ON ENTIRE PROBLEM. ALSO, WANTED US TO DISCUSS PRICES IN BROADER CONTEXT OF NEW AGREEMENT.

7. CANADA (MUSGROVE), WITH NO WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS, DID SOME ISSUE STRADDLING BUT ON BALANCE SUPPORTED US, POINTING OUT HIS DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING EC VIEW THAT BEST WAY FOR EXPRESSING URGENCY WAS TO DELAY NEXT GROUP MEETING. MUSGROVE, HOWEVER, CHIDED US FOR NOT INCLUDING ANY REFERENCE TO PRICE IN GRAIN RESERVE PROPOSAL.

8. CHAIRMAN SEWARD NOTED THAT PAROTTE SHOULD CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARD SETTING NEXT GROUP MEETING DATE. PAROTTE NEXT POINTED OUT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST MAKE DECISION ON SCHEDULING FOR THE COUNCIL SINCE MEMBERS HAD TO BE NOTIFIED AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MADE. HE RECOMMENDED AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 1 (FOLLOWING MORNING MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE), NOTING FLEXIBILITY OF REMAINING SCHEDULE FOR WEEK WAS SUCH THAT, IF HIS CONSULTATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL, A MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP COULD BE CALLED FOR THE NEXT MORNING (DECEMBER 2).

9. COMMENT: USDEL WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DEFINING LINES

BETWEEN EC AND US POSITIONS, AS INTENDED, AND IN
KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING IF EC CAN
BE MADE TO CHANGE POSITION. WE THINK DEBATE WAS USE-
FUL IN SETTING STAGE FOR SUCH EFFORT. BUT ITS IMPOR-
TANCE LIES IN SECURING A SLIGHT PROCEDURAL ADVANTAGE
RATHER THAN ANY BREAKTHROUGH ON SUBSTANCE. PROCEDURAL
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HANDLING OF ISSUE BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN
COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR SETTING FORTH OUR VIEWS
IN BEST LIGHT. RE COUNCIL SCHEDULE, WE WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED TO HOLD MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, AND TUESDAY AM
OPEN, STARTING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AFTERNOON
OF DECEMBER 2, BUT FELT, HAVING MADE DESIRES KNOWN IN
OUR SECOND INTERVENTION, WE SHOULD NOT PRESS POINT.

10. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PAROTTE PRIVATELY IS NOT
SANGUINE THAT EC WILL BACK DOWN. NEVERTHELESS, HE
AGREES THIS SESSION WAS USEFUL AND CAME OFF WELL.
SECRETARIAT WILL FINISH ITS FOUR TECHNICAL PAPERS
PROMISED AT LAST GROUP MEETING THIS WEEK, FOR
CIRCULATION NEXT WEEK. THIS SHOULD FURTHER WEAKEN
ARGUMENTS THAT THERE WILL BE NOTHING FOR A PREP GROUP
TO TALK ABOUT IN DECEMBER.

11. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT REFTEL TO BUENOS AIRES,
TOKYO, MOSCOW, CANBERRA AND OTTAWA.

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Message Attributes

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